

To: The Federal Communications Commission
From: Surry County Schools
Dobson, North Carolina
Re: CC Docket No. 02-06
Date: September 16, 2008

The Surry County Schools district believes strongly that “telephone broadcast messaging” should be added to the list of services eligible for support under the school and libraries “E-rate” program.

It is very evident that improved communications between educators and parents increases educational performance in elementary and secondary schools. Telephone broadcast messaging allows us to improve communications and offers greater benefits over the less efficient traditional means of communicating between school and home. The ability to communicate in “real time” is critical in today’s fast changing world.

Telephone broadcast messaging can be utilized to notify parents of truancy, testing schedules, parent/teacher conferences, and to otherwise, encourage parents to be involved in the school activities and their children’s education. Telephone broadcast messaging can also be utilized to notify parents of emergency situations, which may be school related or community related.

The E-rate program is designed to support schools and libraries in accessing emerging technologies. Telephone broadcast messaging, which allows our schools to more efficiently and effectively communicate with students and parents, is a prime example of such emerging technology. We would strongly support the inclusion of telephone broadcast messaging within the E-rate program’s list of eligible services.

Sincerely,

Terri E. Mosley, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent